

Audre Lorde to Howard Zinn Library
Meeting Agenda | Wednesday, November 16, 6:00pm
Facilitators: Rebecca M. and Chris G.

Attendees: Vered, Rebecca, Terranova [time keeper], John, Kristin [note taker], Angela, Chris, Myrna, Susie, Stacie

Introductions

We shared names and current preferred information sources pertaining to Occupy movement. These include:

twitter, Facebook, www.livestream.com/globalrevolution, rt.com, www.ustream.tv/theother99, racialicious.com, guardian.co.uk, bbc.co.uk

Long-term/Emergency Planning

From November 15 GA: "Proposal PASSED - post-raid, we meet at 8:15 a.m. at the courthouse the next morning, and GA at 7:00 p.m. at the Boston Common bandstand"

We need to identify and map which courthouse - Suffolk Superior Court?

**Action item* - John or Susie will identify which courthouse]

Anna Rothman spoke with Legal WG - 'they have our back'

We discussed two scenarios - one where the camp gets 72 hours notice from police and one unannounced raid. If there is time, books will be removed by those on phone tree to different locations until the next stage of planning commences [7 days later according to previous meeting minutes].

**Action item* [inserted by editor] - should we revisit this timing of 7 days?

Regarding no-notice raid scenario, Myrna asked if we ought to speak with legal about passive resistance tactics and outcomes, if we choose to protect the books on site during raid.

**Action item* - Rebecca, Myrna, Heather and John will reach out to Legal WG to set up a meeting as soon as possible to discuss potential outcomes if we practiced civil disobedience and what we need to know if we choose to go this route.

John suggested occupiers might be encouraged to each take a few books during the raid. Susie expressed concern that it may be difficult to ask this of people during such a chaotic time.

In either scenario, call phone tree right away. John will give copy of phone tree to Logistics and other working groups with whom he has regular contact (who live on site).

If we have 72 hours we will meet immediately and determine whether or not to begin dismantling the library. Terranova wondered where Logistics kept their valuables. John explained that they're currently housed off site. Vered pointed out that it might look like we are "bailing" on the camp if we start packing up books while others prepare to defend camp. Susie described that it may be possible to move bulk of collection out and then send teams back to camp to participate in civil disobedience.

Stacie pointed out that we should identify the vital records in the library that should be moved immediately - the most valued books and irreplaceable (unique) items such as camp ephemera, 'zines, pamphlets, and binders full of Occupy documents. Kristin requested that the group submit their ideas for what those vital documents are, and suggested they be identified visually for quick removal through stickers. Stacie shared that she knows how to create archival finding aids.

*[ed. note Do we need to identify John's personal collection?]

Rachel and Susie described how OWS People's Library had to prove the books belonged to the OWS. The OWSPL had to connect to their online catalog to illustrate ownership before they could retrieve them. In light of this information, the group decided to retract the former decision of not cataloging, and now makes cataloging a priority.

**Action item* - Rachel will contact Bobbe and Jeremy of Librarything to get them on site asap.

We returned to the discussion about resisting moving the library in case of raid. Vered described how the loss of the People's Library at OWS received a great amount of press and demonstrated the symbolic importance/value of the library, and that the library acts as an oasis of order in a hectic scene. John said he understood the symbolic potential sacrifice of the books, if we chose to resist, but is not ready to put them at risk in this way. Chris highlighted that we could go either way - let the library be destroyed - sit back and watch - or sit in and use our bodies to support the library. Myrna reiterated the value of speaking with Legal if we chose to resist and show solidarity with the camp during the raid by standing with the books to the "end"; the books are a physical manifestation of the ideas that the books represent. John thought we might receive far less public sympathy if we had 72 hours to evict and we actively chose NOT to move the books.

Vered wondered if OWS People's Library had an emergency plan. Stacie answered yes, but that by the time it was implemented, it was too late. Only a few bins were retrieved before police locked the camp down.

Susie said that as soon as there is a hint of eviction in the air we should be on site. That we need training in civil disobedience and that we need to agree as a group on the style of disobedience (active or passive) we'd like to employ. We must be prepared in advance.

**Action item* - Terranova will find civil disobedience training times on calendar and share with group.

**Response* by Terra

Friday, November 18, 2011: Nonviolence/Civil Disobedience Training, 2 - 4 PM.

Saturday, November 19, 2011: Nonviolence/Civil Disobedience Training, 10 - 12 PM.

Monday, November 21, 2011: Nonviolence/Civil Disobedience Training, 6 - 8 PM.

Friday, November 25, 2011: Nonviolence/Civil Disobedience Training, 10 - 12 PM.

**Action item* - John and Susie will find out if Chris and Carl Williams might attend next meeting and train us in civil disobedience.

Chris asked if others could be added to phone tree. Susie said the three people designated as outreach would contact others in the group – contact would be circulated by email and phone. Chris asked for a more direct line of communication. Myrna and Stacie described a method via group texting that they used at ALA. Kristin shared the notification service set for OB > text “occupyboston” to 443322 to join the emergency text network

**Action item* - Vered will research potential strategies for emergency communication via Twitter or SMS.

Susie asked if the group supported the idea of showing solidarity with OWS library by forwarding a box of books, including People's History (said John). Unanimous agreement.

**Action item* - Susie will send a box to OWS library with a note of friendship from Dewey Square.

[ed. note - is it useful or possible to be on OWS library listserv or an inter occupy style working group with other libraries?]

Terranova left for Women's Caucus Meeting (7 pm)

Library Vision & Mission Statement [10 min]

Alana will work with Myrna and Rebecca to hone the Vision Statement.

Potential community spaces as hosts [Tabled until next meeting]

Other models for public space libraries/ collections [Tabled until next meeting]

Library Policies/Procedures/Outreach Staffing update from Outreach Affinity Group members: Kristin, Heather, Chris, Angela, Meghan, Candice [10 min]

The group edited a volunteer flyer that Angela had printed and brought to meeting. She asked if we have a logo.

**Action item* - direct Angela to Occupy Boston website for logos?

We agreed to remove from the flyer the working group e-mail address and have potential volunteers email us at library (library_at_lists_dot_occupyboston_dot_org) to arrange an on-site meeting for orientation. John suggested they attend a library meeting first as a method of orientation. Susie also suggested that volunteers affiliate themselves with another working group - that volunteers connect to other camp operations.

Angela, as a non-librarian, requested an on-site and digital reference guide to frequently asked questions regarding the library, and Occupy Boston on site logistics in general. We explained to Angela that it's okay not to know the answer to every question - to write down anything she (or any librarian) may not be able to answer and post to listserv, where 40+ librarians will offer response via e-mail or hard copy.

**Action item:* Susie will update description of the library that she has drafted.

**Action item:* [Susie?] Contact instruction librarians in working group who may have resources they might share that describe the basics of conducting a reference interview.

**Action item:* Stacie and Rebecca will create a resource guide on the listserv and place it in Library binder on site.

Circulation/Collection Questions [10 min] Tabled until next meeting]

Library working group announcements at GA [5 min] [Tabled until next meeting]

A-Z Library Archive [10 min] [Tabled until next meeting]

Technology/Communication Issues [10 min] [Tabled until next meeting]

Programming [Tabled until next meeting]

Outreach/Liaising (to OB working groups, general public, media)

Susie updated the group on the Anarchist Book Fair held at Simmons College, sponsored by the Progressive Librarians Guild. 300-400 visitors showed up over the course of the weekend, Saturday being busiest. The conference will likely take place again at Simmons next year. She brought two crates of books to share (and people borrowed) - one from A-Z and one from Community Change library. It was tough to man the desk solely on Saturday, but four other librarians supported Susie on Sunday from BRRRC. The event seems like it will offer a good discussion space, not only for anarchist thinking but also for activism in general.

Saturday, November 19th is the Occupy Boston Summit to be held at the Quincy School cafeteria in Chinatown from 2 - 6 p.m. The meeting will be held in a "world café" style format which fosters small discussions, not decision making. Attendees will review the past two months of the occupation and discuss strategies for future

direction. Organizers have invited other affiliated groups in order to ensure a fuller representation of the 99%, and will include homeless organizations, communities of color and working class groups. This is a historically important event and we are encouraged to attend. No need to RSVP but if you'd like to contact: obsummit@gmail.com.

Sunday, November 20th is the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. Traditionally, BRRC has marched in Pride Parade. Would be great to show solidarity here too. In the past, members have made banners and armbands reading: HQ77 (LOC number).

Finally, Susie requested volunteers for Skype conference call with University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign professor in Graduate School of Library Science. John volunteered and Susie will post to listserv for others.

Stacie volunteered to facilitate next meeting, Monday, 21st.